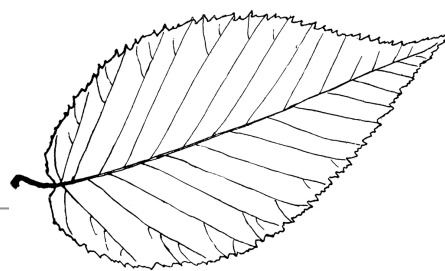


## LEAF



Living on the Edge of Arden Forests

# THE ARDENS

**have achieved their goal of becoming a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat! What does this mean?**

We partnered with the National Wildlife Federation and Delaware Nature Society to make our already

green community even more wildlife friendly. Approximately 40 residents certified their leaseholds as Wildlife Habitats which meant providing water, food (mostly in the form of native trees and plants), cover, and committing to using sustainable gardening practices like working toward reducing chemical pesticides and leaving areas of leaf mulch. The community also earned points toward certification by doing education and outreach. LEAF newsletter is one way we accomplished this. Other initiatives included woods clean-up, forest border restoration, native plant sales, and Spotted Lanternfly Task Force. Beginning in August 2020, The Arden Forest Committee worked closely with point people from Ardentown and Ardencroft as well as The Arden Club's Gardeners Gild to achieve this goal.

*Why is this important?* Urbanization has destroyed wildlife habitats. Through this program, communities can create islands and corridors of wildlife habitat in urban and suburban areas. These efforts, in turn, dovetail with initiatives to boost climate resiliency, conserve water, build community, and encourage urban forestry.

**On Wednesday, July 14,** The Ardens will be celebrating their certification. Not only is this a chance to celebrate our accomplishment, it is also a great way to share with neighbors in other developments and sub-divisions about the process toward community certification. This is us, rolling out the green carpet to everyone, upstream or downstream, adjacent to our forests or further afield, to join the party and find out more about this worthy initiative. Please join us on July 14th.

## CELEBRATION FOR THE ARDENS, CERTIFIED COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT

**WHEN: JULY 14, 2021 4:30 PM-7PM \*Plus movie/trivia starting at 8:15 PM**

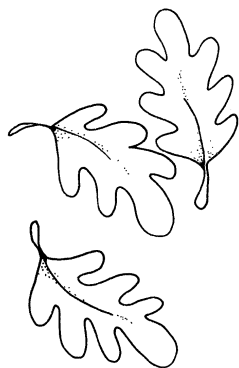
**WHERE: SHERWOOD GREEN, 2119 THE HIGHWAY & MOONLIGHT THEATER 2126 THE HIGHWAY**

**Masala's Kitchen Food Truck, Enter to Win Prizes, Paint a Festive Vessel (to use instead of disposable cups), Find out more information on certifying properties and communities. Join us for "Microcosmos," the documentary that NY Times says is "a breathtaking reminder that Mother Nature remains the greatest special effects wizard of all." at the Moonlight Theater starting at 8:15 PM (With birch beer floats, snacks, trivia, and prizes!) Details at: Forests of the Ardens Facebook Page and Next Door**



## Book Review: The Nature of Oaks by Douglas W. Tallamy

Who knew that a caterpillar can be utilized as a refrigerator? That blue jays are champion oak planters and can carry 5 acorns at a time? That, unknowingly, we so often set up ecological traps underneath our backyard oaks?



Doug Tallamy's new book, *The Nature of Oaks*, is a fascinating, fact-packed, oftentimes smile-inducing page-turner. The book is relatively short (150 pages); each chapter centers around one month of the year, beginning with October, when the author started his writing. He observes the oaks trees on his Pennsylvania property, and, as the year goes by on the pages, we learn about the incredible amount of life the oaks support during their potentially millennium-long lifespan. There are abundant reasons for the oaks to be the most important keystone species in our native ecosystem.

With this book, Mr. Tallamy wanted to increase his readers appreciation for oaks, and, perhaps, to motivate them to plant one or more of them in their backyards. In *The Nature of Oaks*, he puts up a most compelling and indisputable argument for this. Well, he got at least this one reader starting to plant an oak community...

By Hajni Halasz

editor's note: This book is available at The Arden Library.

*"A timely and much needed call to plant, protect, and delight in these diverse, life-giving giants."*

—David George Haskell

**CHALLENGE:** If we, in the Ardens and surrounding area, were to challenge ourselves, how many oaks could we, as a whole, commit to planting? They take up a lot of room. What are some possible locations? Do you have room on your leasehold? Let's start a conversation on social media about how we can be ahead of the curve on an oak-planting initiative. **#ardenoakchallenge**

## A rainbow of possibilities...

Ideas for starting your native garden. Most gardeners first think about color and texture when planning a garden. Incorporating natives can focus on these characteristics too!

When starting or expanding a garden, consider plant giveaways and exchanges. Local garden centers, and even "big box" stores are stocking more natives as the demand increases.

Consider these beautiful flowers, shrubs and small trees for color and availability while also supporting wildlife:

- Rudebekia "cone flowers" (*pink, yellow, or orange flowers*)
- Coreopsis (*gold or red flowers*)
- Bleeding Heart (*pink, white, or red flowers*)
- Black Eyed Susans (*gold flowers*)
- Butterfly Milkweed (*orange or yellow flowers*)
- Bee Balm Monarda (*red, pink, or purple flowers*)
- Goldenrod "Solidago" \*the hayfever culprit is actually ragweed (*yellow flowers*)
- Ostrich Fern (*green, feathery foliage*)
- Chokeberry (*shrubs with dark berries and brilliant red fall foliage*)
- Eastern Redbud (*purplish pink flowering tree*)
- Winterberry (*species of Holly with bright red berries*)
- Serviceberry (*bush/tree with white flowers, red/purple berries, and brilliant orange/red fall foliage*)

To see photos of the above plants, search for them in Mt. Cuba's native plant finder.

<https://mtcubacenter.org/native-plant-finder/>

## The Cicadas Are Coming, but Maybe Not Here!

There are 3,400 known species of cicadas worldwide. But periodical cicadas that emerge en masse once every 17 or 13 years are unique to the eastern U.S. The 17-year cicadas live in the North, and the 13-year cicadas are found in the South and the Mississippi Valley. The three species of 17-year cicadas (*Magicicada septendecim*, *M. cassinii* and *M. septendecula*) form twelve different mixed-species cohorts called broods, whose members emerge as adults together within a very short time frame. The broods are identified by Roman numerals. Brood X (the Great Eastern Brood) is the largest of the 12 broods of 17-year cicadas and they are found in Delaware. These are the cicadas we are expecting this year.

Seventeen years ago, they hatched as nymphs from eggs laid in tree branches. They fell to the ground and burrowed in the soil where they continued to develop, feeding on sap from tree roots. This April Brood X were expected to reach their final nymphal stage and began tunneling up to the surface. In May they will emerge from the ground and begin to climb nearby trees. Males will emerge first. Within an hour they will shed their nymphal skin and become winged adults. Once the adult exoskeleton hardens, the males begin singing – loudly and in unison to attract females. After mating females make small incisions in new growth twigs of trees and deposit hundreds of eggs. They die after 2-4 weeks above ground but their eggs hatch after six to ten weeks and the cycle begins again.

In some areas the density of emerging Brood X cicadas can be enormous, up to 1.5 million per acre. Newark, DE, and Elkton, MD, have recorded high densities in the past, but Brood X mass emergence is not typical in northern New Castle County, so don't be surprised if you do not hear the infamous cacophony.

Find more detailed information about periodical cicadas in the following links:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/brood-x-cicadas-are-emerging-at-last/>

<https://extension.psu.edu/periodical-cicada>



## 2021 Forest of the Ardens Patch, Featuring the Red Fox

Like last year, folks have three ways to earn this year's Forest of the Ardens patch, featuring the red fox. **WAY #1:** Go to <http://arden.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Patch-requirements.pdf> Print your patch passport, complete the requirements, and return the form to a member of the Arden Forest Committee or mail to Forest Committee; BWVC; 2119 The Highway; Wilmington, DE 19810 by

September 1, 2021. **WAY #2:** Participate in the 2021 "Treasure" Hunt. Beginning the week

of July 12, the *Treasure Hunt* guidelines will appear on the Forest of the Ardens website and on the Forest Committee page on the Arden Village website. Also, you can get a hard copy of the *Treasure Hunt* at the *Celebration for the Ardens Certified Community Wildlife Habitat* (see page 1). You can do the *Treasure Hunt* as a group or as individuals. To get credit for your "finds", you must post photos on the "Forest of the Ardens" Facebook page with the appropriate hashtags. The *Treasure Hunt* will run from July 12-August 15. **WAY #3** Be a super volunteer. We handed out many patches last year to neighbors who contributed by working on multiple projects, Spotted Lanternfly Task Force, etc. This year's patch, designed by Phoenix Ridings, is sure to be a collectible item. See a sample at the July 14 celebration. Distribution of patches begins September 1. You don't need to live in the Ardens to earn a patch.

## **Emerald Ash Borer: NOT the Spotted Lanternfly**

Arden takes its trees seriously. We value trees that add to our significant canopy, especially grand old trees. Among these are ash trees, now under threat from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) an invasive beetle from Asia. Arden ash trees have started to show signs of the effects from this borer. In neighboring communities, ashes are dying from the beetles' effect, including Ardencroft and Ardentown.

I recently drove over to Sharpley, a neighborhood west of Rte. 202. This neighborhood's streets are lined with many ash trees. Driving down Hampton Road, at the western end are the skeletons of many ash trees.

Ash trees can be treated to withstand the effects of EAB which destroy the vascular tissue under the bark and remain well hidden until the damage becomes obvious. With over 50% canopy loss it's too late to treat effectively. Ashes affected by the borer become brittle and dangerous and must be removed. Ash treatment requires a licensed pesticide applicator (I am licensed for the municipality of Arden). The procedure is to drill into the base of the tree, insert ports, and deliver a pesticide directly into the vascular system of the tree. This treatment lasts two years but you can read up on a homeowners application below. This is a fraction of the cost of removal of the tree. The Arden Trust has contacted leaseholds with ash trees so we can stay green but for our neighboring communities contact me if you have questions. Carol Larson [forest@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:forest@arden.delaware.gov)

Additional Info for our neighbors from the Delaware Department of Agriculture:

[https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2018/11/Delaware-Residential-Emerald-Ash-Borer-Fact-Sheet\\_11.15.18.pdf](https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2018/11/Delaware-Residential-Emerald-Ash-Borer-Fact-Sheet_11.15.18.pdf)

LEAF is brought to you by the Arden Forest Committee (in cooperation with our sister villages of Ardentown and Ardencroft, and the Arden Club Gardeners Guild). The Arden Forest Committee implements the Forest Stewardship Policy, the main tenets being preservation of a natural ecosystem, including appropriate wildlife habitat, and enhancing residents' interaction with and enjoyment of this natural environment. Specifically, the Forest Committee oversees trail improvements to encourage residents to enjoy the woods. We use social media to dialog with neighbors about ways to appreciate, respect, and care for our forests. In addition, we monitor hazard trees, evaluate risk, and intervene if damage to structures or hikers would occur if the tree fell. The forest committee is charged with the tasks of monitoring forest borders to stop encroachment by leaseholders or neighbors. We also observe water flow in an effort to prevent stream bank erosion and are currently monitoring our waters to ensure stream health. Lastly, we facilitate removal of invasive species to encourage native growth and diversity of native species.

- Inspect your trees. If you see any sign or symptom of an EAB infestation, contact your State agriculture agency.
- Talk to friends and neighbors about EAB and what they should be aware of on their trees.
- Ask questions. If you receive ash nursery stock or firewood, know its point of origin and your supplier: larvae could be hiding under the bark.
- Know State and Federal regulations. Make sure you understand regulations that govern your state and those you may visit.
- Know the quarantines in your area and learn to leave Hungry Pests behind.
- If you think you've seen the emerald ash borer or ash tree damage caused by an infestation, report it immediately by calling 1-866-322-4512 or report online.

### **Arden Forest Committee**

Buzz Ware Village Center/ 2119 The Highway/ Wilmington, DE 19810

<http://arden.delaware.gov/committees/forest-committee/>

[forest@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:forest@arden.delaware.gov)

Facebook group: Forests of the Ardens

Current elected members: Carol Larson (chair), Jill Althouse-Wood, David Jones, Bev Clendening, Keri del Tufo

Current meeting time: 3rd Monday of the month, 5 PM at Buzz Ware Village Center, 2119 The Highway, Arden. Meetings are open to the public.

LEAF editor: Jill Althouse-Wood

The goals of this newsletter are forest stewardship, community, and communication—goals we want to advance through social media and online forums. Some issues of this newsletter will be only available in electronic form. Join Facebook Group **Forests of the Ardens** to stay connected, find out about future events, and read archives of LEAF.